



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**

**October 2020**

No 393

**Our Next Meeting**

**Prof Alan Aylward of**

***The Woodland Trust***

Speaks on: The Woodland

Trust, the Government and

the Emergency Tree Plan: Woodland

fighters the Climate Emergency

**Virtual meeting**

**Due to Coronavirus and following advice from Friends of the Earth, our October meeting will be a virtual one. See page 2 for full details.**

Usually 7.30pm The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Everyone always welcome

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**NEWSLETTER**

## October Meeting Participation

If you would like to be involved in the October Monthly Meeting, then we intend to run a **Jitsi** meeting as we did last month. (see the article regarding Jitsi a few pages in for more information on this) Please let us know by either emailing [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or leaving a message on 020 8289 1503 and we will then send you details of how to join in nearer the time. You can either join using your computer (with video or without) or on a smart phone. Usually a phone number to dial in from any phone is issued with this type of meeting, but due to high demand this function has been disabled.

The first part of the October meeting will be based on The Woodland Trust with the speaker Professor Alan Aylward.

*If you can't attend this meeting, or just find yourself with some spare time, perhaps we can encourage you to become 'Armchair Activists'.*

### Diary Dates

***Please note that due to the Coronavirus, many events have had to be cancelled***

**6<sup>th</sup> Oct (Tues) BFoE Monthly Meeting 7.30pm.** Speaker Alan Aylward "The Woodland Trust, the Government and the Emergency Tree Plan: Woodland fights the Climate Emergency"

This is correct at the time of going to press but obviously will be updated in the next monthly newsletter. If you need any further information on these events in the meantime, you can email us on [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)

**If any of the items in this newsletter make you angry, delight you, enthuse you or cause you any other emotion other than apathy, then please jot down a line or two and send it into the newsletter**

## Next Newsletter Copy

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views, articles for sale will all be considered for publication. Please send them to the editor via one of the methods below to arrive not later than **midnight Friday 16th October**

**Post:** 17 Everard Avenue, Hayes, Kent BR2 7LR

**Email:** [Robert.clark9@btinternet.com](mailto:Robert.clark9@btinternet.com) (please write 'Newsletter' in the subject line)

**Disclaimer:** Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth.

## September Monthly Meeting Report

Anne Clark

John Pavitt said he'd had more time to spare in January, and joined clubs (ours finally) so that he could get across his personal ideas to Bromley Council, of a green recovery plan, although this is a reduced account as he really needed another evening to discuss every item properly. In the past, dialogue had been disrupted which didn't get anyone anywhere (even by XR, although they had been a little more constructive in Brighton last week). So John spoke about The Bromley Environmental Alliance (BEA) now BEN, who needs groups from across the borough to share their dialogue for a sustainable future.

Starting with recycling, the Lewisham Waste incinerator, SELCHP, started life with rather low efficiency but has recently improved making waste removal and combined heating and power for the local community as well as being 'clean' regarding what is being emitted from its chimney. Combined gas generators on the other hand, cause twice as much carbon dioxide and are a worry, though bio-genetic incineration waste will degrade, and landfill will just cause damaging methane gas as well as being expensive for local councils with the Government landfill tax. So the Government must try to persuade local councils to stop their inhabitants producing so much waste in some way.

Textiles produce. 22 times their weight in damaging fumes in the atmosphere, so we should "make do and mend" more. Certain plastics can be recycled

and turned back into more plastic, and glass into glass & sand, ground up for road mending etc, and should only be sent to incineration or landfill as a last resort. Oil and plastic producers MUST be made to reduce plastic production except where absolutely necessary. Nappies must go back to becoming re-useable and if others were made more expensive the public would go back to using them.

Food waste can be incinerated but takes much longer to burn as it is wet, so incentives should be offered for composting and high heat technology. But we must still encourage recycling and get rid of non-recyclable or single use plastics altogether.

The corn starch bags produce an unhealthy slime when used, unfortunately, whereas an aerobic caddy with slots or holes in the sides aerates the food-waste which doesn't smell as it dries out completely over a fortnight, so could be collected less often. All ideas to be tried and tested. If we could move away from carbon based energy, it would help the circular economy. However, the most important thing is education. An 'education pack' needs to come back into schools and children should be taught how to think in ways to successfully protect their planet. They must be fully taught about biodiversity, air pollution, and I even suggested banning bonfires, fireworks, wood burning stoves etc.! But anyway, EDUCATION.

There is a film called 'The Plan' used to launch the campaign, available online. The original plan came about in the

1970s when Lucas employed 7000 workers over 17 sites with 12 different unions. Following a period of expansion in 1974, Lucas Aerospace, along with other aerospace companies, announced the need to restructure the company as a consequence of increased international competition.

Around half of Lucas Aerospace's contracts were military, and depended upon public funding. It was argued that state support would be better put to developing products that society needed, rather than the state supporting workers through paying redundancy money.

In 1976 the Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards Committee produced an alternative plan that advocated the production of socially useful products rather than military. This was in response to management announcing the need to cut jobs. Tony Benn at the Dept. of Industry was supportive of this plan, and it was also reviewed by the Financial Times.

150 product ideas were put forward by the workforce, including: medical equipment, transport systems, energy conservation, oceanics, and fuel cell technology. A 40% increase in the production of kidney dialysis machines was proposed, which at that time were being manufactured on one of the Lucas sites. It was considered scandalous that people could be dying for the want of a kidney machine when those who could be producing them were facing the prospect of redundancy. In the energy sector, proposals included the development of heat pumps, solar cell technol-

ogy, wind turbines and fuel cell technology - and in transport, a new hybrid power pack for motor vehicles.

The proposals were rejected out of hand by Lucas management, not wanting to diversify from aerospace work, even though they had clearly indicated that this work was in decline, and the existence of marginal industrial and medical equipment could have been built upon.

The plan received worldwide support, but not from the government. Forty years on, Lucas Aerospace as a company no longer exists, parts of it having been sold off. Like other UK-based manufacturing companies, Lucas Aerospace was a victim of poor management, and a sad lack of government strategy. The products put forward by the workers' plan are now mainstream. Two examples (there are numerous others) of this are the production of hybrid power packs by most vehicle manufacturers and the contribution that wind turbines make to our renewable energy needs.

We seem to be continuously in crisis. This could be a good opportunity of changing our economy for the better, or redirecting it towards a better deal.

There was time for a few comments/questions at the end of the presentation. These included:

A book 'The Deficit Myth' was recommended by John Bassendine.

**Q** - What would you suggest that we can do in the local community?

**A** – Have a discussion with your members on Industrial Strategy in Bromley and related green issues such as energy

efficient houses.

**Q** – What needed to be in place in the 1970s for the Lucas plan to be realised, considering that Labour were in power with the slogan – ‘White Heat of Technology’.

**A** – Individuals supported the plan, but there was no structure or political will to put pressure on the management to implement the plan.

<https://lucasplan.org.uk>

## **Second Half**

Sheila Brown

Mary Stirling drew our attention to free cycle training offered by Bromley Council to encourage people back on their bikes and keep them safe on the roads. This is happening in Norman Park, Cator Park and other places, and provides one-to-one tuition; Mary thought the scheme might not be continuing for too much longer.

Nature – Annette reminding us of the Tree Strategy Consultation and the petition to Prince Charles and Church Commissioners re increasing tree cover on their land (see September Newsletter). She also recommended watching a 2-part TV programme Jimmy’s Big Bee Rescue on Channel 4 and the War on Plastics programmes. Friends of the Earth is downsizing but hoping to strengthen opinion on reducing plastic pollution. Annette reminded us of the Great British September Clean backed by Keep Britain Tidy – 11th to 18th September which people could do individually in different areas in ones and twos with photos to go on the website/in the

Newsletter.

There was a reminder about Swanscombe Marshes, threatened with an enormous theme park. Details and links are in the September newsletter.

Planning – Ann spoke about the Bromley Town Centre Consultation Plan. Everyone is encouraged to send comments to the Council by 5th October. There are separate consultations for Orpington and Beckenham. The Civic Society has already written but they needed individuals to write, as only 17 had replied so far.

We are also urged to comment on Bromley Council’s Environmental Plan on the website, by 4<sup>th</sup> October, making points about traffic, more electric vehicle charging points, better protected/ segregated cycle lanes, infrastructure and new buildings meeting CO<sub>2</sub> targets, affordable zero carbon houses and conversion of offices to housing.

The plan to demolish Beckenham Library is on hold.

Peace One Day Event on 21st September is happening on Zoom; our traditional local event is the following day, 22<sup>nd</sup>, also on Zoom with a speaker, music and participation by the Woodcraft Folk.

Extinction Rebellion was planning a small "sit-in" outside the Civic Centre, masked and socially distanced.

Sue reported that they had visited Mordean Hall Park again, an interesting venue botanically, with Snuff museum, William Morris museum, toilets, crafts and an organic café, and recommended a

group visit when things improve.

Sheila asked about local plastic recycling and TerraCycle. Morrisons in Petts Wood has a plastic recycle bin behind the door for plastic wrapping, eg. bread wrappers.

\*\*\*\* Does anyone know of other supermarkets doing this? We have heard that in some areas, Sainsbury's and Waitrose provide this facility.

\*\*\*\* There is a plastic-free shop in Hayes opposite the station, and SWOP in Lee Green is now fully functioning again.

Hopes of returning to the Meeting House have become even more remote since our last meeting, so we will continue with online meetings for the foreseeable future.

## Zoom Meetings & Jitsi

We were lucky enough to peak at 20 participants at our last monthly meeting, a record at our virtual meetings.

As you may be aware, we have been using the Zoom virtual conferencing software for our monthly meetings since the March lockdown. As there was a global crisis, Zoom very generously eased their 40 minute limit on free meetings so that anyone could use this facility without restriction. You can use it limitlessly if you pay a monthly fee.

Since things have been getting back to 'normal' again, Zoom have reinstated the 40 minute limit as those attending our September monthly meeting will know. We were thrown out twice due to the reimposition of the limit.



To avoid this happening in future, we have been trialing an alternative open source alternative. Open source tends to mean that is it freely available to all. It also has no time limits.

From our trials, the Jitsi software seems to work well if not better than Zoom, although this remains to be fully tested at our next meeting.

If you want to give it a try, then please contact us via the Bromley email address, or the Editor's contact details, and we'll send you full instructions about joining in.

## Readers' Views

In response to last month's readers' comments on incineration, and John Pavitt has some questions to pose:

Please find below the 2 questions put at the meeting with some supplementary

questions.

1 Are Dioxins and Furans continuously monitored?

2 Are PM10, PM 2.5 and Sub PM2.5 particulate emissions monitored and if so, how frequently?

3 If Dioxins and Furans are not continuously monitored, how many times per year are they monitored?

4 What were the results of any monitoring in the last 5 years?

5 What is the overall thermal efficiency of the incinerator during spring, summer, autumn and winter?

6 How many times and for what duration has the incinerator operated without producing exported electricity and, or heat?



## Climate Emergency

Ann Garrett

Regarding the photo below, this was pulled from Brighton to London, where the police seized it; hope it survives.

It went via Horse Hill where oil is still being extracted at the site there.

PS Grandson Jonah at front 2nd from left !

## Great British September Clean

Annette Rose

A big thank you to every-one who helped with our Great British September Clean. Here is what was sent to the local press.....

'Volunteers from Friends of the Earth Bromley took part in Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British September Clean'. Members picked up litter in many parts of the

borough including Petts Wood, Bromley and Chislehurst and collected a large number of sacks of rubbish.

Annette Rose, plastics campaigner for Bromley Friends of the Earth said, 'We have been very concerned about the amount of littering in our streets, particularly since lockdown. Not only is it unsightly, but waste is harmful to the environment and plastics in particular can end up in our waterways and seas.'

The waste collected included wrappers, cans, cartons and discarded masks. Numerous cigarette butts were found near spots such as bus stops. Friends of the Earth continue to campaign for clear targets on reducing plastic pollution and waste. You can find out about the campaign at [www.friendsoftheearth.uk](http://www.friendsoftheearth.uk) and you can follow Friends of the Earth Bromley on their Facebook page.





were recyclable! Do not let your toddler's drop their sweet wrappers !!

Anne Clark.

See the following pictures.

John and I collected all this litter in about half an hour between 12 and 12.30 today. It was all from one side of Sward and one side of Granville.

Notice the silver bullets - there was a carrier bag full of them at the side of the road in Granville.

Sue Bock

Litter pick up at Sundridge Park

I cleared Cow lane Chislehurst for the Great British September Clean and collected one and a half bags of rubbish - cans, bottles, poo bags, crisp and sweet wrappers, baby/dog wipes, clothing, foil BBQ tray, face masks. At least two thirds







## BBC News

Here are some useful and interesting links for the BBC news site.

This is a link to an OPAL Tree Health survey project conducted over the course of 6 years via citizen science. Over 39,000 people were estimated to have taken part and they showed how much the public were willing to engage with nature. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-54106793>

Here's a Link to a report by a citizens' assembly of 108 people on climate change solutions they suggested in urging the government to show leadership on climate change. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-54087176>

This link shows data from Greenpeace



from 2018 on the export of polluting pesticides. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-54093926>

This is a WWF report on the catastrophic decline in wildlife published ahead of Sir David Attenborough's 'Extinction: The Facts programme'. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-54091048>

## Miller's Mutterings

Chris Miller

As I write this offering on the 28th August, we have had 61mls of rain mainly during the past two weeks, so you can imagine what this has done to the harvest. The boys started combing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August and managed to cut and bale the spring oats before storm Francis appeared. Unfortunately, the crop was poor with less than half the amount of grain there should have been and the straw was very short in length due to the dry weather in April and May. Again, less than half the amount of bales made than expected. One consolation was that the oats didn't fall over during the very strong winds the previous week because it was too short!

Started on the wheat on Wednesday 26th despite this being very wet, they decided to keep going as long as they could before the really heavy downpours. They managed to cut about 50 ton which will have to be dried but it will make the grade for making bread. Ideally the wheat would be cut at about 15% moisture or lower to store but some of this load was 20%! You have to

weigh up whether to carry on at a high moisture rate and pay for grain drying or risk losing the quality of the crop.

Also the days are getting shorter and there is a shortage of quality bread wheat. The wheat harvest even made the 6 o'clock news: they were saying that this is the worst wheat harvest for 40 years. Hopefully we can start again on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>, when the crop will be at a reasonable moisture level after more rain during the week.

The barley will be left 'til last because it will only go as animal feed now. Malting barley is not wanted, due to the brewers not using malt for beer making as the pubs are not back in full swing. The only silver lining to the cloud is that the spring crops did not cost a lot to grow, food for thought for following harvests. The weather patterns are changing dramatically and we will have to think hard about how we will grow grain in the future. Challenging times ahead.

Pleased to read that Steve Fuller has seen plenty of swallows. I obviously didn't update you but we had six swallows in the end. We have seen youngsters weaving around, which is always a delight but over the weekend of 8th and 9th August, there was a huge flight of swallows flying around. The beans were being cut over the road so not sure if this was the reason so many were together.

Michaelmas Day is the feast of St. Michael and Archangel celebrated on 29th September, which traditionally was the last day of the harvest season. It was also a Quarter Day and sometimes

known as Goose Day, when goose fairs were held throughout the country although now they are usually held in October. Here are a couple of sayings for Michaelmas Day:

If St. Michael brings many acorns,  
Christmas will cover the fields with  
snow

If the breast bones of the goose are brown after roasting, the following winter should be mild, but if the bones are white or have a slight blue hue, then the winter will be severe.

## **Brogdale Revisited**

Sheila Brown

We first visited Brogdale in 2004 with Friends of the Earth. Brogdale houses the National Fruit Collection and is best known for its collection of over 2200 varieties of apple, but also has 550 varieties of pear, 350 of plum, 320 of cherry and smaller collections of bush fruits, nuts and grapes, all grown in 20 hectares (50 acres) of beautiful orchards. The 40 hectare (100 acre) balance of the farm is dedicated to orchards and research and development into fruit cultivation.

The National Fruit Collection is owned by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The University of Reading has been appointed by DEFRA as curators of the Collections with Farm Advisory Service Team (FAST) carrying out the horticultural management.

The collections are part of the UK's strategy for the conservation of genetic

resources and food security policy so that the characteristics that made them useful and popular in the past can benefit the future. The apple collection in particular is part of the nation's contribution to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources which aims to secure Global Food Security. Other collections, for example, are wheat in Mexico and rice in Malaysia. These are initiated and coordinated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation to secure the world's future food supplies. Propagation material from the NFC is made available to researchers throughout the world.

Brogdale is situated on the outskirts of Faversham and can be reached by train to Faversham station and by road is well sign-posted. It has an excellent café and shops. A huge amount of their income comes from visitors, so they have missed out this year due to COVID; they are open daily from 10 am - 4 pm and, as is currently the case with most venues, one has to pre-book online. You can buy an Orchard Pass which is valid for a year. There are normally conducted group tours but these are currently suspended, as is the delightful miniature railway which normally runs around quite a large area. They usually have festivals throughout the year with entertainment, food, cider, country crafts, but unfortunately these too have had to be cancelled this year. But you can visit and look around, with volunteers on hand to answer questions, sign boards with lots of information and a useful map. Do visit – they really need the income!



## College Green

Ann Garrett

The following photo is of the park space College Green on College Road, Bromley. It is usually kept up by The Green Gym volunteers and has bee houses, some raised flower beds and plenty of long grass wildflower areas for the pollinators.

The photo was taken on one of my weekly visits as a member of Friends of Bromley Town Centre Parks and Gardens, on a rather hazy day. There is a very ancient mulberry tree surrounded by wildflowers in the middle of a protected area.

The site was an area of garden orchards many years ago. Bromley Community Action, of which I was a founder member, campaigned successfully to stop an office block to be built on the space in 1980 and keep it as a garden centre and playing fields for the old Parish School which was then opposite

College Green. It was known in those days as Stevens Nursery Site!

## HS2

Adrian Appley

Adrian posed this question to FoE head office.

FOE : Are you opposing the HS2 project and if so what are you doing ?

Hi Adrian

Thanks for getting in touch.

We're opposed to the HS2 project – we think it's completely the wrong decision and far too expensive. Please see our press release from earlier this year for more information. We believe the huge amount needed to build HS2 could be better spent on alternative transport options – you can find much more detail in our report on The opportunity costs of HS2.

Rehan Chah

But we're not campaigning specifically on HS2 as unfortunately we don't have the resources to cover every issue. Our current focus is on working for a green and fair recovery from this pandemic. You may be interested to read our demands for a plan. We believe we can use the opportunity of coming out of this current crisis to build a fairer and greener future. And we're continuing to try to tackle the climate and nature emergencies we face – we're lobbying the government to adopt our Climate Action Plan and we're encouraging Climate Action Groups to take local action. We're also trying to stop the third runway at Heathrow. Unfortunately, there is now an appeal from the airport so our legal team will be working hard to defend our Court of Appeal success when the case comes before the Supreme Court later this year.

I hope this helps. Thanks again for contacting us.

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,  
Stuart Croft

**Positive Update!!** Air Quality Action Plan & Bromley/Orpington Town Centre Consultations & Beyond!

A quick and positive update, with some next steps ...

Last night's Council Environment PDS Meeting was a good one!

Council Officers confirmed that the Bromley Air Quality Action Plan public consultation got MORE RESPONSES

THAN ANY OTHER LONDON BOROUGH AQAP consultation and, at 869 responses it got X4 the average response rate of 234!! WELL DONE!!!

A strong message to our councillors and MPs that people care about Clean Air and want to see improvements - this resulted in some important and impactful changes to the draft Plan - in particular the adding of more milestones and deadlines - which will govern the way the council deals with air quality over the next 5 years. \*1

To me, the amazing response rate shows that when we all work together to make people AWARE of their ability to improve their wellbeing and environment, they will grasp it!

Our lungs and our carbon footprint are inextricably linked. Our flora and fauna and human survival are inextricably linked (see bees & other pollinators as a case in point). We can ALL help normalise thinking, speaking and acting on this urgent problem, thus normalising a care for the community and nature our very survival depends upon.

The current situation is simply not good enough nor sustainable. There is a LOT that each of us can do individually, and even more when we get our community groups, members, local schools and businesses involved. I'm so glad we are already doing so much with our groups and also working on putting this Alliance together asap. We need to continue to share our concerns and practical green changes outside of this bubble and bring more people to the table to work together

through the Alliance as we launch next month.

EVERYONE wants clean air, everyone wants our native plants and wildlife to survive, everyone wants our kids and grandkids to have the free choice of whether to have a family or not (and not be dictated to by the horrors of Climate Change). Let's help make sure people know what they can do to achieve these goals they sometimes forget they hold dear.

As part of this, let's make sure we get as many people as possible to engage with the Bromley & Orpington Town Centre consultations?! Especially under the Air Quality, Green Infrastructure, Transport/Travel Infrastructure, and Bromley Culture Themes! (deadline 5th October!) Here are the relevant links:

Here are the "Themes" for Bromley Town Centre for folk to comment on - <https://bromleytowncentre.commonplace.is/overview>

Here is the town centre MAP for Bromley (to mark up/comment on) - <https://bromleytowncentre.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/have-your-say-on-your-local-area/details>

Here are the "Themes" for Orpington Town Centre to comment on - <https://orpingtontowncentre.commonplace.is/overview>

Here is the town centre MAP for Or-

ington (to mark up/comment on) - <https://orpingtontowncentre.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/have-your-say-on-your-local-area/details>

*"These consultations will give an important insight in to what local people and businesses feel is needed for Bromley & Orpington Town Centres – the two main commercial centres in the Borough – to help govern the council's planning and funding policies going forward."*

For example, WHAT do people want to see - do they want more pedestrianised areas or green pockets, more parking for cars or less, more EV charging points, more secure bike storage at shops and stations, better cycle routes, more outdoors dining, cleaner air, less congestion, less speeding, more trees, safer crossings, wider pavements, more car park blocks, restrictions on building heights, more affordable housing, more solar panels, more pollinator planting etc – and WHERE exactly (where poss).

A few more examples in the email chain below and more to follow no doubt! J

Finally, kudos to Will Harmer - who (last night) pushed for and secured a public consultation though it wasn't required by statute – there may be a Public Consultation on the Ide Verde LBB Draft Green Space Strategy coming up in the Autumn/Winter.

We and our youth deserve a better future to look forward to, let's continue to do something about it TOGETHER and constructively!

Glad to be working with you guys on

this wonderful Alliance!

PARISA WRIGHT

Founder | Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond)

\*1 AQAP NB - Sadly the Plan still seems to be missing: a goal for how much to reduce the pollution by; a promise to fund more air monitoring - they say they will apply for funding if it comes up, a clear target to improve Active Travel eg via Cycle Lanes/Crossings/School Streets..... We have sent in queries on this and more, as have RVR, and will feed back when we hear back from the Portfolio holder! In the meantime - if YOU put in a question to the Environment PDS Committee please do share the question and answer with us so we can collate them in a shared document for future reference!

\*2 Draft Green Spaces Strategy - Let's hope that when the time comes, we can help to ensure there is constructive feedback and in turn more thought put into things like:

1) supporting and improving biodiversity through native wildflowers and meadow areas in parks and verges and ceasing any use of dangerous pesticides, and ensuring better/more closed lid bins and dog poop bins and litter picking etc.,m to protect our wildlife and plant life, and

2) improving air quality and carbon capture through protection and planting of more trees and more hedges/plants rather than grass/

concrete and via improved facilities for walkers and cyclists and reducing the pollution from their vehicles and equipment! And

3) public education on the importance of pollinator and native planting, and not littering, would be important too - perhaps support or collaboration with schools could be built in also.

4) Plus Key Performance Indicators relating to the above (including their use of diesel/petrol fuels for fleet and equipment) are key where possible!

## **Bromley Council Traffic Team Cuts**

Ann Garrett

Withdrawal of funding from Transport for London could result in redundancies as well as affecting newly planned initiatives. This will affect the proposed Street-space programme and could result in job redundancies.

There were over 120 proposals including pop up cycles lanes, extra crossings, and traffic filters in a bid to encourage more sustainable transport and social distancing post lockdown.

Whilst the authority had hoped for more than £1 million , the reality could see the amount being only £369,322.

How will this affect all the ideas we are putting forward as part of the Green Recovery Programme and Town Centres Consultation process?

## STOP MAKING US COUGH, TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF!

Idling an engine for just one minute produces as much carbon monoxide as smoking **3 packs of cigarettes** and enough toxic air to fill **150 balloons!**



This pollution is especially damaging to young lungs and can impact organ development, as well as aggravating respiratory & cardiovascular conditions!

**Idling is illegal & now subject to fines. Switch your engine off when stationary!**

## **Campaigns**

### **Planning Monitoring Team**

#### **Climate, Energy and Transport**

##### **Global Heating**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued a severe warning about Global Warming saying that we were warned 30 years ago of the serious impact, and that now is our last chance to listen and do something.

The population of the Earth was given official notification that it faced a threat of unprecedented magnitude. Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouses gases, spewed into the atmosphere from factories and vehicles burning fossil fuels were pinpointed as triggers of future climate change. Melting icecaps, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events could be the norm for the 21st century unless action was taken, warned a report.

Three decades later, it is clear that the worlds governments have recklessly ignored that warning. Fossil fuels still supply 80% of the world's energy, and Co2 levels continue to rise.

Whilst writing this article, news is coming in of torrential storms and flooding in Florida, following the disastrous fires around San Francisco.

Thanks to the IPCC, we are at least more aware and know exactly how much fossil fuel we have left to burn if we want to limit global temperatures to a relatively safe rise of 1.5C. Individ-

ual countries have until next year - at the UN Climate Change Conference in November - to announce how they will achieve those reductions in oil, gas and coal burning in order to make that target possible. Environmental groups will certainly be working hard to keep challenging.

Ann Garrett

##### **Covid and Big Oil Profits**

The oil industry's second-quarter results season has laid bare the full toll of the pandemic on the world's biggest fossil fuel companies and for good reason . The global market fell to historic lows in April and almost £69 billion has been wiped off the profits of the world's largest producers, and left dividends in tatters.

There has been a real lack of climate vision by these oil companies, however, and it will be interesting to see if they will be willing to change direction in favour of investing in greener technologies in the future. We will wait with bated breath!

Ann Garrett

##### **Nuclear Energy - Wylfa Project**

Plans for a £15 - £20 billion nuclear power plant in Wales have been scrapped. Work on the Wylfa Newydd project on Anglesey was suspended in January last year because of rising costs after Hitachi failed to reach an agreement with the UK government.

News has now come through that Hitachi have withdrawn from the project. This a big disappointment for

local jobs, but the anti-nuclear lobby are naturally pleased.

There would now be a real opportunity to create green jobs if the project were replaced by an alternative energy initiative as part of the Green New Deal and along the lines of the New Lucas Plan.

Ann Garrett

## E facts for the month

We are so addicted to cheap food, however dubiously produced, that we spend only a third as much on it as people did in the 1950s.

Half our milk is now produced from cows that live permanently indoors. The bicycle has been with us for more than a century and no one has invented a more efficient method of travel. A car uses 50 to 80 times the energy of making the same journey by bike.

A cyclist moves three times as fast as a walker for the same expenditure of energy.

## Supplies That Don't Cost the Earth

*This is a regular reference point for useful and practical resources, helping us to sustain the greenest lifestyles we can. These are not recommendations from Bromley or National FoE, but are just suggested by BFoE members. Any suggestions or reviews gratefully received. [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)*

### If You Care Products

If You Care make sustainable home baking and kitchen products, and for I first discovered them when seeking greaseproof bags or an alternative to polythene, and discovered their sandwich bags, which Waitrose stock. I have since bought their recycled foil – they do a normal and an extra large/strong. Also available are bin liners, compostable coffee filters, bin bags, firelighters, rubber gloves, parchment baking paper, and reusable baking cases. See website: <https://buyifyoucare.com/>



### The Burlington Food Hall

The Burlington Food Hall is going in where the large hardware store has closed down next to the Post Office in Chislehurst High Street. It's to house a baker, greengrocer, butcher and zero waste store where you fill your own containers.

Local traders will occupy the hall so money stays in



the local community. They hope to be open by Christmas. The website is [www.burlingtonfood.co.uk](http://www.burlingtonfood.co.uk).

Sheila Brown

### **New No Waste Shop**

There is a new no (or low) waste shop open in Hayes Station Approach. The Java and Chai café is still trying to function as such in the present climate but they have hugely diversified by turning a large part of their space into a waste free shop.

They have refills for all the usual food stuffs as well as household cleaning products. Don't forget your own bags and bottles.

Robert Clark

### **Toilet Rolls**

You may have seen me mention in a past newsletter about using Who Gives a Crap toilet paper. This recycled paper and bamboo company gives a cut of its profits to build toilets and improve hygiene in third world countries. Very worthy. I have discovered, though, that the paper we get from this Australian company is made in China. I struggle to weigh up the advantage of using recycled toilet paper against the miles it travels to get to my bathroom, although, they recently said that their transport from door to door is completely carbon neutral. I still find this amazing considering my toilet paper travels half way around the world, but if you pay enough offset then you can make it balance I suppose. There must be a better way though.

I have discovered several alternatives and I am going to try and find an ethically better and cost effective alternative.

Brand	Toilet paper type
Ecoleaf (Suma)	100% Recycled: fibre from UK
Essential	100% Recycled: fibre from UK
Traidcraft	100% Recycled: fibre from UK

The extract above is from the Ethical Consumer and shows just three of their list but all are made in the UK.

I am going to try another make, though, called Rural Trading.

[www.ruraltrading.co.uk](http://www.ruraltrading.co.uk)  
Facebook: Rural Trading Ltd

I'll let you know the results.

Robert Clark

### Internet

<https://www.peacewiththewild.co.uk/>  
Wide range of biodegradable and natural products

<https://www.mygreenpod.com/>  
'Ethical' products news and advice

<https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/>  
[www.greenfinder.co.uk](http://www.greenfinder.co.uk) - a useful directory of environmental companies for all kinds of things.

*Naturallythinking*, Unit 2 Mill Lane Trading Estate, Mill Lane, Croydon, CR0 4AA, 020 3856 3588: <https://naturallythinking.com/>

*Crowdfarming*, wide selection of directly supplied products from farmers around the world, many organic: <https://www.crowdfarming.com/en>

### Facebook

*Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond)*

Consumer action!

*Hayes Life Freebeecyclers* There may be something similar in your area.

## A Tree at Emmetts

Christina Clark

This is a photo of a Dawn Redwood taken at Emmetts Gardens.

The notice says ' Dawn Redwood. This type of tree can be dated back to the Cretaceous period, 66 million years ago when dinosaurs walked on Earth.'



## Reuse

If you have any items that you no longer need and that could be of use to someone then please let us know and we will publish them in the Newsletter. Alternatively, you could bring them along to our monthly meeting and put them on the table in reception. Any donations to BFoE from sales will be greatly appreciated.

### List Of Roles

Everyone can be contacted via the groups email address: [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)

#### Acting Co-ordinators/Mentors:

Sheila Brown 01689 851605

Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295

**Secretary:** Vacant

#### Treasurer:

Sheila Brown

#### Press Team:

Ann Garrett

#### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown

#### Outings Organisers:

John & Sue Boccock 0208 290 0485

Merchandising: Anne Clark

#### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 07414 920920

#### Newsletter Production:

Dan Sloan

#### Instagram and Twitter Admin:

Emmanuelle Coetzee

#### Fundraising Officer:

Bill Priestley 01689 820469

#### Admin Team:

Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

#### Bromley Environmental Alliance Rep:

John Pavitt

#### Web Site & Technical Support:

Peter Gandolfi, Mary Ingledew

#### Refreshments

Mary Ingledew, Sylvia Chance

#### Meeting Reporters:

John & Sue Boccock, Anne Clark, Annette

Rose, Peter Gandolfi, Sheila Brown -

further volunteers for this team would be welcomed

#### Campaigns (Contact via group email)

#### Nature/Trees:

Diana Hurd, Judy Palmer, Annette Rose,

Tamara Galloway, Ruth Fabricant

#### Anti Fracking:

Ann Garrett, John Catlin

#### Plastics:

Annette Rose, Sheila Brown, Emmanu-

elle Coetzee, Ruth Gardner, Judy Palm-

er, Ruth Fabricant, Viv Gardiner

#### Climate:

Sam Gee, Ann Garrett, Tamara Gallo-

way, Ruth Fabricant, Judy Palmer

(liaison with Climate Alliance)

#### Planning Monitor: Tamara Galloway,

Ann Garrett

#### Newsletter Editor:

Rob Clark 020 8289 1503

[robert.clark9@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.clark9@btinternet.com)



## **Non-members Section**

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth (BFoE) then hello to you. We are an active local group affiliated to national Friends of the Earth concerned with promoting the understanding of environmental issues. We also campaign on these issues at a local, national and international level.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do, please contact either of our acting co-ordinators Sheila Brown or Ann Garrett (their details are inside the back page of this newsletter.) Alternatively you can come along to one of our monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley - that's towards the bottom of the High Street, on the right going down. If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

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## **Membership Application/Renewal\* Form** (\*delete as appropriate)

I would like to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my annual subscription (£8 single/£15 couple/family.) I also enclose a donation (optional) of £..... to help towards the work of our local group.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Post Code: ..... Phone No: .....

Email address: .....

Do you have any hobbies or interests that may be of use to the group?

.....

Please return this form to: Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent BR6 7RN. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or contact one of our co-ordinators via their details inside.